

HUNTER EDUCATION

newsletter

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF HUNTER EDUCATION
THE NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

■ October 2008

North Dakota State Fair 2008... "What A Ride!"

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I want to thank all of you who volunteered your time to work at the North Dakota State Fair! It was great to meet many of you for the first time and although I was a little apprehensive since it was my first time, the veteran's stepped up again! For those of you who have worked the Fair before, I would encourage you to come back. If you haven't been there, put it on the calendar, come up to Minot and check it out. 24,000 fair goers came through the park, an increase of 12,000 from last year. While we didn't get an exact count for the shooting range (something to work on for next year), we went through thousands of pellets! One fantastic improvement was being able to hook up our pellet guns to 20lb CO2 tanks, eliminating the need to replace the smaller canisters. A special thank you to Joe Lautenschlager, a local HE Instructor, for the manifolds and Kent at American Welding in Minot, for donating the CO2!

It truly was a gratifying experience, teaching the younger kids and those that have never shot a gun before and then seeing their excitement after hitting the target for the first time! While it did get warm a couple of days, it was not like last year from what I was told; it was fun and

definitely worthwhile. After the park closes at 7:00 p.m., we gather around the picnic table, grill some hamburgers and hotdogs, enjoy a cool beverage and share stories.

Please consider participating in this worthwhile event for a day or two or three, you might even get lucky to get tickets to some of the concerts! Lodging is reimbursed for those that work two days and live more than 50 miles from Minot.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional Workshops

- December 6th, 2008 - Bismarck, Doublewood Inn
- February 2009 - Jamestown
- Feb/Mar 2009 - Devils Lake
- March 2009 - Williston

Annual Conference

- January 23rd-25th, 2009 - Bismarck, Ramkota

Hope to see you at these events!

"When I was young, I told Dale Jr. that hunting and racing are a lot alike. Holding that steering wheel and holding that rifle both mean you better be responsible."

- Dale Earnhardt

New Instructors and Instructor Recruiting

We would like to welcome our “New” instructors to the Hunter Education Program! If they are in your area, please contact them, encourage them to assist you in a course, add them to your team and most important - keep them involved! Cody Bentson, Hettinger; Amanda Bjorn, Minot; Steve Brush, Sabin, MN; Jim Gray, Bismarck; Shannon Hegstrom, Forest River; John Oster, West Fargo; Angie Poupa, Emerado; Clinton Russell, Cavalier; Trevor Uhler, Forest River and Justin Werven, Ellendale.

We do have several others that expressed interest and were sent an application, but have not completed some portion of the certification process. In order to be able to follow-up with the applicants, please include a phone number and/or email address when you submit the name of a potential instructor!

Continue your outstanding efforts in recruiting new instructors! Since April, we have sent out 38 applications and letters to potential instructors. You are recruiting your assistants and replacements, so select those that are the best of the best for the future of our program! One of the things that I would stress to all new instructors is how important assisting a veteran instructor is and to be very comfortable before you take on the lead role.

24th Annual Hunter Education Instructor Conference

January 23rd – 25th, 2009 are the dates for the 24th Annual Hunter Education Instructor Conference. It will be held at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck and kick-off with a social on Friday evening. Planning has begun and we hope to have a great event, both informative and social! Initial plans are to conduct small workshops revolving around HE course material, instructor training and distribution of information. Additional information and agenda will be sent out in December. I encourage you to make plans on attending, this is your program and your opportunity to meet your fellow instructors and share ideas!

Regional Workshops

We are in the process of setting the dates for our four regional workshops this winter; they will be conducted in Bismarck, Dec 6th, 2008 at the Doublewood, Jamestown (Feb 09), Devils Lake (Feb/Mar 09) and Williston (Mar 09).

The workshops are focused on the historical and present foundation of wildlife management on this continent, “The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation”. Two extremely qualified presenters will facilitate the workshops: Mike McEnroe, retired career biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Roger Krueger, Human Resource and Training Consultant. These two professionals are very well versed in the North American Model and have served as Hunter Education Instructors for over 20 years.

Individual invitations will be mailed to instructors within a 50 to 80 mile radius of the workshop location six weeks in advance of the event.

International Hunter Education Association (IHEA)

Included with your newsletter is the Fall 2008 issue of the IHEA Journal, good articles, instructor tips and of course, advertisements! Take advantage of your instructor discounts and visit their website to see more good deals: <http://www.ihea.com/instructors/instructor-resources/index.php>, enter “instructor” as your username and “gohunt” as your password.

State Fair Pictures 2008





Sunday, July 20th (l to r) Lance Jerome, Andy Robinson, Lori Schweigert, Earl Lien, Adnan Aldayel, Rod O'Clair



Saturday, July 19th (l to r) Back Row - Roger Krueger, Lori Schweigert, Darwin Bucholz, Lance Jerome, John Riske Front Row - Will Aide, Nathaniel Umphrey, Randy Meissner



Tuesday, July 22nd (l to r) Clyde Gross, David Rensch, Ike Kuntz, Teresa Gorman, Mel Birkholtz, John Gorman, Gary Leslie, Dave Blocker



Thursday, July 24th (l to r) Candace Miller, Nate Stroh, Amanda Bryson, Gary Leslie, Brittany Hendrickson, Jordan, Karla Meikle, Ken Rehling, Dick Cheatley, Dave Haugen



Saturday, July 26th (l to r) Dave Haugen, Karla Meikle, Jon Hanson, Zach Peterson, Mick Myers, Pat Lothspeich, Gabe Dretsch, Matt Leer



2009 Course Registration

It's that time of year again to register your course dates/locations for 2009! Please complete the enclosed form in as much detail as possible; this will assist us in reducing the number of phone calls we get! We will post your phone number on the course detail page; this will allow students to contact you in regards to course material, location and attendance, etc. Return the form as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2008 so we can get them posted to the website. We are already getting calls asking about next year's schedules! Please forward pictures of classes and other shooting events in your city and we'll include them in the newsletter!

HE Exam

In response to your inquiries and survey comments regarding the exam, I am in the process of gathering information and developing a plan to "rewrite" our exam. At the January conference, I want to present three options or examples of exams that might replace the current one. From what I've been able to find, we have the flexibility to write our own exam and we should be able to come to some consensus at the conference. While we won't all agree, I do want your input, so I will make every attempt to get these examples out to as many instructors as I can before the conference!

North Dakota Hunter Educator's Association (NDHEA)

As a certified instructor you are eligible to become a member of our NDHEA, please contact the membership chairman, Charles Vasicek, 701-223-9797 or cvasicek@bis.midco.net. Together, we can work towards improving an already outstanding program through additional programs and activities.

Training Aids

Over the years, many of you were issued training aids, various firearms, both shotguns and rifles to use in your classes. Since those were purchased with State funds, there needs to be accountability for them. We have lists that identify what you were issued, by name, city and serial number. In the near future, we will be sending out those lists and you will be asked to verify what you have. If you don't have them, we need to know what happened to them; e.g., were they passed on to another instructor? In some cases, those that originally received them are not "Active" according to the program guidelines, hopefully these firearms were passed on to an active instructor! Another reason for conducting an inventory is to find out whether or not the firearms are operational. If you have firearms and they need repair, let's get them fixed so that they can be used for the intended purpose!



**HUNTER
EDUCATION
TELEPHONE
NUMBERS**

**For Class Supplies: 1-800-421-8358
For Procedure and Policy Questions: 1-701-328-6316**

INSTRUCTOR'S CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM:

If you move, please be sure to notify us. Email changes to sthompso@nd.gov or complete the attached form and mail to:
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Hunter Education
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095

NEW ADDRESS:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone No. _____

(Detach and return)

Instructor Contact Information

Please ensure that we have your correct contact information! We do get calls from students that need additional information specific to your course and they should be able to contact you. Call Steph, 701-328-6615 or 800-421-8358 or mail in the form on the back of the newsletter. If you would like to be added to our Email distribution list, send me an email address!

Federal & State Range Grants

If you have shooting organizations (gun or bow) in your city, and they are interested in receiving grant money for improvements, contact me! I have several organizations that have inquired about the process and I want to ensure that everyone is aware of this great opportunity so that we can spread the wealth. It's not millions of dollars, but it can be a real boost to your local range & community!



The Hunter Education Newsletter is published quarterly by:
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
100 North Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501-5095
1-800-421-8358
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Hunter Education Program
Jon Hanson, Gun Safety Coordinator



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